

**What is claimed is:**

- 1 1. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising steps of:
  - 2 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query information
  - 3 includes at least genealogical information corresponding to a user-sought entity.
  - 4 searching a database for the query information, the database including a
  - 5 plurality of records, each record containing directory listing information for an entity;
  - 6 and
  - 7 presenting a query result to the user.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the query information
- 2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a central database.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is a distributed database.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone
- 2 number.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the genealogical information includes one of a
- 2 parent's name and a sibling's name.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are
- 2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.
- 1 9. A method for providing a directory listing, the method comprising steps of:
  - 2 receiving query information from a user;
  - 3 searching a database for a directory listing corresponding to the query
  - 4 information, wherein the database includes a plurality of records, each record

5 containing directory listing information for an entity;  
6 presenting a query result to the user;  
7 requesting genealogical information corresponding to the query information;  
8 receiving the genealogical information from the user;  
9 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the genealogical  
10 information; and  
11 presenting a genealogical query result to the user.

- 1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.  
1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.  
1 12. The method of claim 9 wherein the database is a central database.  
1 13. The method of claim 9 wherein the database is a distributed database.  
1 14. The method of claim 9 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.  
1 15. The method of claim 9 wherein the genealogical information includes at least a  
2 parent's name or a sibling's name.  
1 16. The method of claim 9 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.  
1 17. A method for providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:  
2 linking a first record in a database to a second record in the database when the  
3 first and second records contain chronologically different information corresponding to a  
4 same entity;  
5 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought entity;

6           searching the database for listings corresponding to the query information,  
7   wherein said database includes a plurality of records, each record containing directly  
8   listing information for an entity;

9           presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes at least  
10   one indicator for each listing that is linked to other listings in the database.

1   18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising the step:

2           repeatedly presenting linked listings to the user when the user activates the  
3   indictor, wherein the linked listings are presented with at least one indicator when the  
4   linked listing is linked to other listings in the database.

1   19.   The method of claim 17, wherein a first indicator is presented when the listing is  
2   linked to a chronologically older listing in the database, and a second indicator is  
3   presented when the listing is linked to a chronologically newer listing in the database.

1   20.   The method of claim 17, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1   21.   The method of claim 17, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2   from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1   22.   The method of claim 17 wherein the database is a central database.

1   23.   The method of claim 17 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1   24.   The method of claim 17 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2   number.

1   25.   The method of claim 17, wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2   over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1   26.   A method for providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:  
2   receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought entity;

3           searching a database for database listings corresponding to the query information,  
4        wherein said database includes a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
5        listing information and an accuracy data field corresponding to an entity; and  
6           presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes the  
7        contents of the accuracy field for each directory listing presented.

1   27.   The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding  
2       to a last date on which the directory listing information was most likely known to be  
3       accurate.

1   28.   The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding  
2       to a last date on which the directory listing information was verified to be accurate.

1   29.   The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2       corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was most likely  
3       known to be accurate.

1   30.   The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2       corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was verified to  
3       be accurate.

1   31.   The method of claim 26, wherein the accuracy data field is a percentage  
2       corresponding to a likelihood that the directory listing information is accurate.

1   32.   The method of claim 26, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1   33.   The method of claim 26, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2       from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1   34.   The method of claim 26 wherein the database is a central database.

1   35.   The method of claim 26 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1    36.    The method of claim 26 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2    number.

1    37.    The method of claim 26 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2    performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1    38.    A method of providing a directory listing, comprising the steps:

2            receiving query information from a user, wherein said query information  
3    includes one of a telephone number and an email address.

4            searching a database for the query information, the database including a  
5    plurality of records, each record containing directory listing information for an entity;  
6            searching the Internet for the query information; and  
7            presenting a query result to the user including results from the database search  
8    and the Internet search.

1    39.    The method of claim 38, further comprising the step:

2            defining an area code portion, an exchange portion, and a number portion  
3    corresponding to the telephone number, when the query information includes the  
4    telephone number;  
5            wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for telephone  
6    numbers on web pages, said telephone numbers on web pages including one or more  
7    of the area code portion, the exchange portion, and the number portion, regardless of a  
8    presentation format on the web pages.

1    40.    The method of claim 38, further comprising the step:

2            defining a username portion and a domain name portion corresponding to the  
3    email address, when the query information includes the email address;

4           wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for email  
5     addresses on web pages, said email addresses on web pages including at least the  
6     username portion and the domain name portion.

1     41.   The method of claim 38, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1     42.   The method of claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2     from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1     43.   The method of claim 38 wherein the database is a central database.

1     44.   The method of claim 38 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1     45.   The method of claim 38 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2     number.

1     46.   The method of claim 38 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2     over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1     47.   A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2        a database including a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3        listing information for an entity;  
4        a server computer adapted to perform the steps:  
5           receiving query information from a user, wherein said query  
6           information includes at least genealogical information  
7           corresponding to a user-sought entity.  
8           searching the database for the query information; and  
9           presenting a query result to the user.

1     48.   The system of claim 47, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1     49.   The system of claim 47, wherein the step of receiving the query information

2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 50. The system of claim 47 wherein the database is a central database.

1 51. The system of claim 47 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 52. The system of claim 47 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 53. The system of claim 47 wherein the genealogical information includes at least  
2 one of a parent's name and a sibling's name.

1 54. The system of claim 47 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 55. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:

2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3 listing information for an entity;

4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:

5 receiving query information from a user;

6 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the query  
7 information;

8 presenting a query result to the user;

9 requesting genealogical information corresponding to the query  
10 information;

11 receiving the genealogical information from the user;

12 searching the database for a directory listing corresponding to the  
13 genealogical information; and

14 presenting a genealogical query result to the user.

- 1    56.    The system of claim 55, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.
- 1    57.    The system of claim 55, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2    from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.
- 1    58.    The system of claim 55 wherein the database is a central database.
- 1    59.    The system of claim 55 wherein the database is a distributed database.
- 1    60.    The system of claim 55 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2    number.
- 1    61.    The system of claim 55 wherein the genealogical information includes at least  
2    a parent's name or a sibling's name.
- 1    62.    The system of claim 55 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2    performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.
- 1    63.    A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2                a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3                listing information for an entity, wherein a first record in the database is linked to a  
4                second record in the database when the first and second records contain chronologically  
5                different information corresponding to a same entity;  
6                a server computer adapted to perform the steps:  
7                        receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought  
8                        entity;  
9                        searching the database for listings corresponding to the query  
10                      information;

11                   presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes at  
12                   least one indicator for each listing that is linked to other listings in  
13                   the database.

1     64.       The system of claim 63, wherein the server computer is adapted to recursively  
2     present a linked listing to the user when the user activates the indictor, wherein the linked  
3     listing is presented with at least one indicator when the linked listing is linked to at least  
4     one other listing in the database.

1     65.       The system of claim 63, wherein the server computer is adapted to present a first  
2     indicator when the listing is linked to a chronologically older listing in the database, and  
3     to present a second indicator when the listing is linked to a chronologically newer listing  
4     in the database.

1     66.       The system of claim 63, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1     67.       The system of claim 63, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2     from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1     68.       The system of claim 63 wherein the database is a central database.

1     69.       The system of claim 63 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1     70.       The system of claim 63 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2     number.

1     71.       The system of claim 63, wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2     over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1     72.       A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:  
2                   a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3                   listing information and an accuracy data field corresponding to an entity;

4           a server computer adapted to perform the steps:  
5                 receiving from a user, query information corresponding to a user-sought  
6                 entity;  
7                 searching the database for database listings corresponding to the query  
8                 information;  
9                 presenting a query result to the user, wherein said query result includes  
10                 the contents of the accuracy field for each directory listing  
11                 presented.

1   73.   The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding to  
2   a last date on which the directory listing information was most likely known to be  
3   accurate.

1   74.   The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a date corresponding to  
2   a last date on which the directory listing information was verified to be accurate.

1   75.   The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2   corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was most likely  
3   known to be accurate.

1   76.   The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a number  
2   corresponding to a number of days since the directory listing information was verified to  
3   be accurate.

1   77.   The system of claim 72, wherein the accuracy data field is a percentage  
2   corresponding to a likelihood that the directory listing information is accurate.

1   78.   The system of claim 72, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1   79.   The system of claim 72, wherein the step of receiving the query information

2 from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1 80. The system of claim 72 wherein the database is a central database.

1 81. The system of claim 72 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1 82. The system of claim 72 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2 number.

1 83. The system of claim 72 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are  
2 performed over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1 84. A system for providing a directory listing, comprising:

2 a database comprising a plurality of records, each record containing directory  
3 listing information for an entity;

4 a server computer adapted to perform the steps:

5 receiving query information from a user, wherein said query  
6 information includes one of a telephone number and an email  
7 address.

8 searching the database for the query information;

9 searching the Internet for the query information; and

10 presenting a query result to the user including results from the database  
11 search and the Internet search.

1 85. The system of claim 84, wherein the server computer is adapted to perform the  
2 step:

3 defining an area code portion, an exchange portion, and a number portion  
4 corresponding to the telephone number, when the query information includes the  
5 telephone number;

6           wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for telephone  
7       numbers on web pages, said telephone numbers on web pages including one or more  
8       of the area code portion, the exchange portion, and the number portion, regardless of a  
9       presentation format on the web pages.

1     86.    The system of claim 84, wherein the server computer is adapted to perform the  
2       step:

3           defining a username portion and a domain name portion corresponding to the  
4       email address, when the query information includes the email address;

5           wherein the searching the Internet is performed by searching for email  
6       addresses on web pages, said email addresses on web pages including at least the  
7       username portion and the domain name portion.

1     87.    The system of claim 84, wherein the user-sought entity is an individual.

1     88.    The system of claim 84, wherein the step of receiving the query information  
2       from the user is performed via a voice telephone call.

1     89.    The system of claim 84 wherein the database is a central database.

1     90.    The system of claim 84 wherein the database is a distributed database.

1     91.    The system of claim 84 wherein the directory listing includes a telephone  
2       number.

1     92.    The system of claim 84 wherein the receiving and presenting steps are performed  
2       over one of a telecommunications network and a computer network.

1     93.    A method for providing a directory listing, comprising steps of:  
2           (1) presenting to a user a plurality of choices;  
3           (2) waiting for the user to select at least one of said choices; and

(3) performing a search for a directory listing in accordance with the user selection.

1 94. The method of claim 93, wherein the choices comprise various databases in  
2 which to perform the search.

1 95. The method of claim 94, wherein the various databases comprise genealogical  
2 information, historical information, accuracy information, and world wide web  
3 information.

1 96. A computer system for providing a directory listing, comprising:

2 a processor;

3 a memory for storing computer readable instructions;

4 wherein when the computer readable instructions are executed, the computer  
5 system is adapted to perform the steps:

presenting to a user a plurality of choices;

7 waiting for the user to select at least one of said choices; and

8                    performing a search for a directory listing in accordance with the user  
9                    selection.

1 97. The method of claim 96, wherein the choices comprise various databases in  
2 which to perform the search.

1 98. The method of claim 97, wherein the various databases comprise genealogical  
2 information, historical information, accuracy information, and world wide web  
3 information.